



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 112<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 158

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2012

No. 24

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
February 14, 2012.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ANDY HARRIS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 17, 2012, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### THE GREAT RULER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the country cannot afford this great ruler and his administration.

He costs too much.  
He spends too much.  
He taxes too much.  
He regulates too much.  
He cuts defense too much.  
He grows the government too much.  
He divides the people too much.  
He blames others too much.  
He controls our lives too much.

He despises criticism too much.  
He says no to domestic energy too much.

He obstructs drilling in the Gulf of Mexico too much.

He says yes to OPEC too much.

He subsidizes bankrupt green energy too much.

He ignores the border too much.

He sues States too much.

He infringes on religious freedom too much.

He tries to make Americans dependent on the government too much.

He likes giving away somebody else's money too much.

He campaigns too much.

He expands government too much.

He borrows too much.

He taxes people who die too much.

He taxes people who live too much.

He likes the word "trillion" too much.

He increases unemployment too much.

He likes the phrase "more deficit" too much.

He lets gasoline prices rise too much.

He makes health care cost too much.

He ignores the Constitution too much.

He panders to radical interest groups too much.

He berates capitalism too much.

He refuses to compromise too much.

And he really likes Big Government too much.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford this great ruler, and especially his current administration.

And that's just the way it is.

### REJECT THE AMERICAN ENERGY AND INFRASTRUCTURE JOBS ACT OF 2012

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, for those watching on tele-

vision and here in the House, I assume my friend from Texas was talking about President George W. Bush. Certainly he was not talking about the current President, Barack Obama.

But I want to talk today about transportation. The residents of my northern Virginia district endure one of the worst commutes in the Nation. Each citizen spends an average of 74 hours stuck in traffic, costing the average commuter nearly \$1,500 a year in lost productivity and consumption. They're understandably fed up with congestion and traffic, and they want to see improvements being made. They want to be able to get to work without having to leave in the middle of the night to get there on time. They want to be able to attend their child's school activities or go to a doctor's appointment without having to take half the day off from work.

The unmet needs in northern Virginia alone top \$600 million a year. Across the Commonwealth of Virginia, they exceed \$100 billion over the next 25 years. My constituents and I are ready for a robust transportation bill that will repair our roads and bridges and expand commuting options, especially transit. Sadly, H.R. 7 is not that bill, and it is laughable for the House Republican majority to claim otherwise. Their plan will cut investment in transportation and in our Nation's crumbling infrastructure, and it will cut, not create, jobs.

In highway funding alone, Virginia will lose \$361 million under this proposal compared to current funding. H.R. 7 completely eliminates bus and bus facility funding for the Washington area metro system and the Nation's other metropolitan transit authorities. Just 5 States out of 50 will receive more highway dollars over the next 5 years. All the rest are losers. This bill eliminates all dedicated user funding for transit, prompting even the conservative Chamber of Commerce to

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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